

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section heading before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 :

-- FIELD OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention relates to a multilayer decoupling and sealing system, in particular for laying ceramic paving by using a thin-bed method, ~~as defined in the preamble to Patent Claim 1.~~ --

Please insert the following section heading before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 :

-- BACKGROUND --

Please insert the following section heading before the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 :

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~The One embodiment of the~~ present invention describes a multilayer sealing and drainage system, used in particular for laying ceramic tiles using a thin-bed method, which is of a layered construction that consists, listed from bottom to top, of a drainage layer formed from a first lattice-type structural element, with drainage areas formed between the lattice structures of the lattice-type structural element, a liquid-permeable non-woven layer; an anchoring layer that is formed from a second lattice-type structure and used to hold a filler material that is to be incorporated into the upper face of the sealing and drainage layer, which is plastic during processing and subsequently cures; and a reinforcing layer that is fixed, at least in some sections, to the anchoring

layer. A layered construction of this kind permits a significant improvement to known sealing and drainage systems in that, for each function such as anchoring and reinforcing, inhibiting the migration of joint mortar into the drainage area, the drainage of the liquid that is passing through, and decoupling separate layers from the substratum there are separate layers that, in combination with and because of their dimensions, achieve an optimal result. In this connection, particularly because of the anchoring layer that is disposed on top and the reinforcing layer that is laid above this and secured thereby, it is ensured that joint mortar that is applied on top bonds completely with the sealing and drainage system and in so doing ensures that an appropriate load-bearing capability of the sealing and drainage system is achieved. The non-woven layer that is interposed, and which is liquid-permeable, simultaneously prevents the filler, such as a tile adhesive, from penetrating into the drainage area and ensures that the drainage channels for draining the liquid that passes through the non-woven layer will always remain open. The lattice-type structural elements permit particularly simple construction of the anchoring layer and drainage layer that essentially determine the thickness of the sealing and drainage system.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In another configuration, it is conceivable that the reinforcing layer be welded or cemented onto the anchoring layer. Because of this, on the one hand, the reinforcing layer can be well embedded in the filler material and, on the other hand, it adheres securely to the anchoring layer, which is similarly filled with filter material. This results in a particularly good bond between the filler material and the reinforcing layer or the anchoring layer, respectively. In this connection, it is conceivable that the reinforcing layer be formed as a lattice-type fabric, ~~preferably in one embodiment,~~ as a glass-fiber fabric, which

serves to provide more secure anchoring with the filler material that is to be incorporated at the top of the sealing and drainage system.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In another arrangement, it is conceivable that the sealing and drainage system can be laid rigidly, ~~preferably in one embodiment~~ cemented, on a substratum. This results in more secure attachment of the sealing and drainage system, should this be both permissible and useful because of the properties of said substratum. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In addition, in another arrangement is conceivable that beneath the lower drainage layer there be a moisture-impermeable sealing layer arranged on the drainage layer, Because of this, additional or simple sealing of the substratum, which can usually only be achieved by sealing layers that are applied separately, is achieved when the sealing and drainage system is laid. The substratum can then remain unprocessed by the application of the sealing and drainage system according to one embodiment of the present invention, if special sealing properties are either required or not available on site. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- It is a significant advantage for the utilization properties of the sealing and drainage system according to one embodiment of the present invention if, after the installation of the filler material, the anchoring layer is essentially completely filled with filler material and the reinforcing layer that is embedded in the hardened filler material performs a stiffening and reinforcing function for dispersing mechanical loads that are introduced from above, with the result that load dispersal is possible through significantly greater layer

thicknesses than is the case with known sealing and drainage systems since, in addition, the whole layer thickness of the anchoring layer helps to bear the loads and, at the same time, is reinforced by the reinforcing layer.--

Please insert the following section heading before the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 20 :

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~A particularly preferred~~ One embodiment of the decoupling and sealing system according to the present invention is shown in the drawings appended hereto. These drawings show the following:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 1: a cross section through a decoupling and sealing system according to one embodiment of the present invention, which shows the layered structure; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 2: a plan view of a decoupling and sealing system according to one embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Figure 1; --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 3: the arrangement of overlapping areas for the reinforcing layer and the sealing layer on a decoupling and sealing system according to one embodiment of the present invention, as shown in Figure 1.--

Please insert the following section heading before the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5 :

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 1 is a cross sectional side view that shows the layered structure of a multilayer decoupling, sealing, and drainage system 1. Figure 2 is a cross sectional plan view at the level of a non-woven layer 6, and Figure 3 is a plan view of the decoupling, sealing and drainage system 1, in cross section along the reinforcing layer 5. In Figure 1, the decoupling, sealing, and drainage system 1 according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown installed on a substratum 15, for instance in a cement screed or the like. Tile paving made up of tiles 10 can be seen above the decoupling, sealing, and drainage system 1 and this is laid in tile mortar 12 by the thin-bed method. The joints 11 between the individual tiles 10 are similarly filled with tile mortar 12. --